Tribunals and amount involved therein;

(c) how many cases have been disposed of by the Special Recovery Tribunals and the amount involved therein;

(d) what is the percentage of amount so far disposed of in terms of total Non-Performing Advances of the Banks as a whole;

(e) the steps taken by Government to make the Tribunals effective; and

(f) what is the estimated time-frame for disposal of cases regarding all the Non-Performing Advances of the Banks by the Special Recovery Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Five Debts Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi and one Appellate Tribunal at Bombay have been set up so far.

(b) to (d) Information from Debts Recovery Tribunals is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) To make the Tribunals effective. it has been provided in Sub-section (8) of Section 19 of the Act itself that the applications made to the Tribunals under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose off the applications finally within six months from the date of receipt of the application.

Production of Coin Blanks of Salem Steel Plant

251. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry are procuring orders from abroad for Coin Blanks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous technology is available for producing Coin Blanks at Salem Steel Plant; and

(c) if so, the reasons for importing the Coin Blanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The requirement of coin banks is met through indigenous sources as well as by importing coin blanks. Indigenous sources, inter-alia, include supply by Salem Steel Plant.

Customs Duty on Flint Buttons

252. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the customs duty of Flint Buttons has been reduced to 65 per cent from 105 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is fact that a proposal had come from Industry Ministry for restoration of customs duty of Flint Buttons;

(d) if so, the reaction of his Ministry thereto; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?